ANNUAL MESSAGE

American Freethought Association.

Courage! Freethinkers, Courage!

The New Year is Ushered in Bright ith Promise of Great Progress in the Cause of Freethought.

I wish to introduce the idea of issuing an Annual Freethought Proclamation, after the manner of the President's Annual Message. I see great usefulness in this, if it be widely disseminated among all classes. It is now too late to prepare such a message and have it printed and circulated this year; so I will contend culated this year; so I will contend myself with addressing the public, as usual through the Blade, and will not depart from my usual style of expres-

sion.

As I am the retiring president of the A.F. A, it is appropriate that I review the progress that has been made during the year, along with present prospects, and the conditions which confront us. Next year this duty will devote on President Henry in the meantime, the executive committee will act upon this proposition and the document put out will be of an official character, approved and signed by the president, secretary and executive committee. executive committee.

This should be printed on a four page slip and scattered among legislators, clergy, business men, educators, etc. It will be a new idea. Nearly every one will read it, especially those, who pick up our papers and seeing what they are, throw them down. We do not reach the class we desire to reach, on account of their refusal to accept and read our journals. I believe we can reach them this way, and the expenses will not be so great. Most of our readrs will agree to distribute from 25 to 100 and some I know will distribute several hundred. We want to put them in the hands of every member of the State legislatures and of Congress. The Association ought to be able to put out from 25 to 50 thousand. With this in view, let every member send in his dues for 1905, and we hope new members will join us. This should be printed on a fou

members will join us.
You will all be proud to see this
official Annual Message of American
Freethinkers, signed first too, by a
woman, capable of giving instruction
to any official or legislature of our to any official or legislature of our whole government—thus capable, because she is more fearless, more conscientious more broad-minded and is keener in the sense of justice and humanitarianism, the qualifications of a great statesman, and which qualifications, few of our representatives today possess

day possess.

This is all a sudden idea to me.
have no time to prepare a dignif have no time to prepare a dignificat thoughtful message. I am greatly hurried so I will just glance at some of the conditions of progress and review the changes that are taking place in a plain old fashioned way. First, I congratulate the Freethinkers of the world and Humanity at large, upon the success of

have no time to prepare a digniher throughtful message. I am greatly hurried so I will just glaine at some of the conditions of progress taking plain old tashioned way.

First, I congratulate the Freethinker she world and Humanity at large, upon the success of The Great International Freethought Congress

which met in Rome in September of the last year. This was the crowning official event of 1964. It is influence was world-wide, and the world took motor of it. The influence of the Vational that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the Alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the Alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the Alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the Alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the Alleciance of the National that the Pope cannot command the Allecian that the Pope cannot command the Allecian that the Pope cannot command the Alleran that the Pope cannot command the Allecian that the Pope cannot command the Alleran that the Pope cannot command the Alleran that the Pope cannot command the Alleran that the Pope and the National Theoretin that the Pope and the National Theoretin that the Pope and the Alleran that the blood that is coursely blood that is coursely vein of thought. We can best judge of our influence by the desperation of the clergy and their present haste to progressive ideas. that is coursing through every of thought. We can best judge

m to progressive ideas. Freethought in Disguise. Don't forget: Freethought can be found in disguise everywhere. You will find it in lodges, fraternal insur ance societies, clubs, and in all order which find life outside the churche

we have much to encourage us in the exhibition of the many desperate efforts the church is putting forth to maintain a bare existence.

In the first place, young men are not rushing into the ministry. It is among the least attractive pursuits of the modern young man, who feels his freedom. But a few years ago the great majority of young men, in looking about to make choice of their future professional careers seriously considered entering the ministry. It was a profession to which nearly every Christian bred young man aspired.

To-day, God is not howling himself hoarse giving them "calls." Great seminaries, like Lane of Cincinnati, have only 30 theological students, and many of these never take up the ministry and many drop out after they have made the start. All along the line, there is general complaint that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, especially the city bred young man.

But worst of all, there is general complaint that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the first place were and the starts of the indistry of the line, there is general complaint that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the first place were and they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the profession the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry, the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry that the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry. It is all the first they have made the start. All along the profession that they cannot induce young men to go in the ministry that the prof

the lacets of the critery for them to part of couldn't in the current of the country and the c

less attractive to men. The priest and parson will not want to divide honors with women.

The economic as well as the religious issue is also attracting women. We observe the majority of the brainy women iconoclasts in this country, such women as Caroline Perkins Stetson, devoting almost their entire attention to these issues.

Last week the Countess of Warbick, noted to heu falents and beauty, mistress of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address at the intervention of the greatest castle in England, in a public address in Essex and Wells, and in the remainder of England. It is terrible that large numbers of men and women should starve because they cannot find work. I am not afraid because those who point out the present social evils are called rebels. It is time that some thing be done to remedy the evils. Workingmen must understand the necessity of organization and of backing their leaders. I agree with the Chairman's resolution with the Chairman's resolution with large masses of the working classes. This can only be remedied by the collective ownership of all means of production, distribution and exchange and the institution of a co-operative commonwealth."

Coming from such a personage, this is wonderful. Now and then r

and the institution of a co-operative commonwealth."

Coming from such a personage, this is wonderful. Now and then riches and aristocricy and blue-blood cannot spoil or corrupt a soul endowed by nature with benovelence, pity and love of humanity. The knowledge of a million people unemployed in England today, not only touches this woman's heart, but brings her to the realization, that the economic issue is one which demands the attention of every humane and thoughtful person. This woman has stepped far in advance of Balfour, Chamberlain, and of all other of England's great states

of all other of England's great states

men.

This is not a day of statesmen, however—it is the day of machinery and

ever—it is the day of machinery monopoly.

It shoud be a source of great rejoicing to us, to observe the emanciapation of woman, all along the line. She is organizing into many societies which attract her way from and outside the influence of the priest and parson, and thus superstition is being

ance societies, clubs, and in all orders which find life octation to echosidered entering the ministry. It is most attend that the churches of the considered entering the ministry. It is was a profession to which nearly every christian bred young man aspired.

They throw off their disguises slow; ly, it is true, but perhaps it is well that it is so.

As long as ignorance is organized. As long as ignorance is organized and men must have decreased and men must have a few cannot expect them to come out like ourselves. The power of church and politics is in organization, and we cannot expect to change organization and we cannot expect to change organizat



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